Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5281

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E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, MV

SUBJECT: BRITISH TO ACQUIESCE IN TERMINATION OF MALDIVIAN

DEFENCE AGREEMENT

1. BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER (DYHICOMM) TOLD EMBASSY JULY 20 THAT HMG PLANS TO AGREE TO TERMINATION OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH MALDIVIAN GOVERNMENT (GOM). AGREEMENT HAD PROVIDED FOR BRITISH USE OF GAN ISLAND FOR RAF STAGING FACILITY AND HAD CONTAINED ARTICLE PERMITTING HMG VETO OF THIRD COUNTRY MILITARY USE OF FACILITIES.DYHICOMM SAID PLANS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON BEFORE ACTION IS TAKEN BUT THEY WANTED TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

2. ACCORDING TO DYHICOMM, HMG HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM MALDIVIAN PRESIDENT NASIR IN MAY WHICH ACCUSED BRITISH OF TERMINATING AGREEMENT UNILATERALLY BY THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM RAF GAN AND STATED THAT GOM, AS RESULT, NO LONGER CONSIDERED AGREEMENT VALID. HMG HAS APPARENTLY BEEN DELIVERATING OVER WHAT TO DO ABOUT LETTER AND HAS NOW DECIDED TO PROPOSE FORMAL TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT BY CONSENT RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO ASSERT RIGHT TO THIRD COUNTRY USE VETO WHICH HMG FEELS IT CANNOT ENFORCE. DYHICOM INDICATED ACTION WOULD NOT AFFECT BRITISH PLANS TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO MALDIVIANS. CONFIDENTIAL

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Subject: BRITISH TO ACQUIESCE IN TERMINATION OF MALDIVIAN DEFENCE AGREEMENT

TAGS: PFOR, UK, MV To: STATE

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